

**TO GO ON DGS LETTERHEAD
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dallas Genealogical Society Announces Winners of 2015 Writing Contest

Dallas, TX—July XX, 2015—The Dallas Genealogical Society announces the winners of their 2015 Writing Contest.

First Prize \$500: *Rising – the Story of John Wesley Barnes and Edna Mollie Crawford* by Diane Gawedzinski

Diane Barnes Gawedzinski is a Dallas native, raised in the Elmwood section of Oak Cliff. As a junior at Duncanville High School, she interviewed her grandfather Wesley Barnes for a school project. Those notes inspired her first baby steps into genealogy and are the basis for this article. She has a B.A. in English from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.Ed. in Counseling from the University of North Texas. She lives in Rockwall and is a school counselor at Wylie High School. Husband Rob, sons John and David, and Diane's parents John and Jane Barnes have provided her with great support and encouragement over the years, even as Diane continues to hijack family vacations to visit another great-great-somebody's gravesite. Following the lead of her maternal aunt, June Chandler Everheart, Diane has learned genealogy mostly through trial-and-error, experiencing the rush of excitement when discovering treasures in obscure courthouse drawers, and knowing the frustration of those slippery ancestors who disappear behind brick walls. "Rising" is her first genealogical article to be published.

Second Prize \$300: *Tracing Polly's Life from Slavery to Freedom* by RL Canady

RL Canady began doing genealogy research in 1979. He is a retired communications electronic specialist and has a B.S. in Business Management. He has attended workshops and classes in genealogy at numerous state and local conferences, and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University, Alabama. His research focuses on the southern states with emphasis on African American and slave genealogy. In January 2012, together with Barbara Ware, he transcribed information on the Daniel Family Cemetery for the Dallas Genealogical Society Cemeteries listing on its website. His current volunteer work involves data archiving of the McGowan Funeral Home Collection also for the Dallas Genealogical Society. He is president of the Little Rocky Cemetery Association, whose mission is restoration and preservation for an abandoned cemetery of early settlers and former slaves in Milam County. He is a Lifetime Member of the Dallas Genealogical Society and participates in the African American Genealogy Interest Group in Dallas, Texas.

The winners will be honored at the DGS Annual Awards Luncheon December 12, 2015, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Dallas Genealogical Society.

No Third Prize was awarded this year.

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